

tution. This was effected by misrepresentation as to the cost, and by a curious plea of the power of the trustees, which last rendered legal redress impossible. However, the plans and working drawings were paid for and delivered to the committee, and the claims of the design were abandoned.

Having thus stated the leading features of the case, I now call attention to the plan exhibited in *THE BUILDER* of the 12th of August last, with Mr. Fowler's name attached thereto, and it will be found that the abandoned plans are, with slight modifications, being carried out.

A legal right may exist with the committee, but there is an evident want of moral feeling; but this has arisen from the influence of the party above-named, whose actions throughout have borne this character. But what, Sir, is to be said of a member of the profession, one of reputed high standing, who can attach his name to the ideas, and almost the design, of another competitor?

I have previously said, as to personal feeling I care little for this result; but it appears to me that it strikes a fatal blow at the principle of competition, and moreover involves a point of how far any architect has a right to pirate the ideas of another, and attach his name thereto?

As I consider these questions affect the practice of the profession, I have deemed it right to inform its members, by the aid of the wide-spreading circulation of your journal, that they may be known and considered by them, and I feel I shall have fulfilled my duty, and it shall not invite me to trouble you again in the matter (if answered), as I will not allow it to assume the character of a private controversy, but intend to base it on broader grounds.

An exact statement of the case will be laid before the council of the Institute of British Architects, supported by proofs of all I have here alleged; and I shall request that this tribunal will consider the facts and deliberate upon them, not so much for the case itself, as upon the principles involved therein, and I feel, in so doing, I shall have delegated the power to the right authority, to pronounce upon what appears to me to affect each and every individual in the profession.—I am, Sir, &c.

D. MOCATTA.

57, Old Broad-street, Aug. 17, 1848.

### THE NEW SEWERS BILL.

As this Bill has been read a third time, it may be interesting to our readers to be made acquainted with the extraordinary powers conferred on the Commissioners of Sewers by its provisions. It consists of 146 clauses, but the following will be found an abstract of those of direct interest, a great number being necessarily devoted to details:—

The preamble recites the districts hitherto acting under separate commissions—viz., Tower Hamlets, St. Katharine's, Poplar and Blackwall, Holborn and Finsbury, Westminster and part of Middlesex, Surrey and Kent, and Greenwich; and the first clause declares that, from the passing of this Act, they shall, with all other places in the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, and Kent, being not more than twelve miles distant in a straight line from St. Paul's Cathedral, be subject to and under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.

Clause 2. That the duration of each commission of sewers shall be limited to two years.

3. That the commissioners appointed for the purposes of this Act shall be denominated "The Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers."

4. The Lord Mayor of London, and four persons appointed by the Common Council, for special purposes, to be commissioners under this Act.

6. No commissioner to vote on any question in which he is personally interested, under a penalty of 50*l*.

7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, settle as to the property of sewers, actions not to abate on the expiration of commission, officers to be continued, rates made by former commissioners to be recoverable, and six commissioners to exercise all powers conferred by this act.

12. The Lord Mayor and four persons ap-

pointed to vote on all questions affecting the City of London.

13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 regulate the holding of courts, and the appointment and duties of committees.

24 to 30 regulate the appointment and duties of officers.

31. That a map of the jurisdiction of the commissioners shall be made, and a copy open at all reasonable times, to the inspection of owners or occupiers of lands within the commission.

32. Commissioners may agree with officers of the Board of Ordnance, that a survey may be made by surveying officers appointed by them, at such remuneration as may be agreed upon between the parties and the commissioners.

33. Commissioners may separate the drainage districts in such manner as they may deem expedient.

34. Commissioners may sub-divide, unite, extend, contract, or alter the limits or boundaries of the districts from time to time.

35. Commissioners may forbear to exercise jurisdiction if deemed expedient.

36 and 37 refer to the subject of jurisdiction, and for the repair, alteration, and discontinuance of sewers.

38. That for the purpose of carrying off any water or drainage flowing from sewers in this commission, it shall be lawful for the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers to require the City Sewers Commissioners to carry sewers into or through the City of London, or the Liberties thereof, or to alter or repair the same.

39, 40, 41, and 42, give the commissioners power, when they shall think fit (failing the City Commission), to alter or improve the city sewers and to divide the cost between the party liable and the district.

43 gives like power in respect of other sewers, &c.

44 gives full power to cover and to cleanse sewers, and dispose of the sewage.

45 declares that no house shall be built or rebuilt without proper drains. If proper drains are not made and continued into a suitable sewer, if within 100 feet, or otherwise a cesspool under certain restrictions, after 28 days' notice, commissioners to form the same, and recover the expense from the owners of the property by distress or sale of goods, or of the then present or any future occupier.

46. That the surveyors under the Buildings' Act shall make a return to the commissioners of all notices of building or rebuilding houses within their respective districts, and such surveyors shall take notice of all contraventions of this Act.

47 to 51 regulate the management of water-closets, drains, cesspools, ditches, streets, &c., any nuisances arising from the same to be removed on notice from the commissioners, and also give powers to cleanse any tenements, streets, passages, places, or walls from any dirt or annoyance whatever.

52. The commissioners to have power to erect public water-closets and other conveniences, and maintain the same out of the district sewers-rates.

53 to 58 regulate the protection of the drainage works, and penalties for improper substances cast therein.

59 to 72 regulate the power of the commissioners to enter on lands, to stop up streets, enter into contracts, purchase lands, compensate, contract for supply of water, &c.

73 and 74 apportion the sewers-rates for the district; and such rates may be made either prospective or retrospective, and the charges of permanent works spread over a period of 30 years.

75. Commissioners may impose district-rates in gross on parishes or places in whole or in part within the areas rateable thereto, or to assess and levy such rates upon the occupiers of the property, as from time to time they may think proper.

76. Tenants may deduct sewer-rate from rent.

77 to 112 all relate to the regular mode of enforcement, &c., of rates, precepts, mortgages, &c., and the borrowing of money.

113, 114. Expenses incurred by commissioners in drainage works within the City of London to be assessed in gross on the City.

115 to 119 relate to general provisions as to

money matters—appointment of auditors, annual report to Parliament, &c.

120. Commissioners may make bye-laws as to penalties, appeals, construction of drains, suits and proceedings, limitation of actions, venue, and as to the clerk being a competent witness in any action.

121 to 129 relate to law-suits—commissioners not personally liable, power to examine upon oath, and to decree and assess costs, &c.

130 to 134. Penalties for obstructing officers or damaging property of commissioners, and as to common informers.

135 to 138 relate to service of notices and distresses, the authentication of documents; 139 to 141 to repeals of local and other Acts.

142. The general law of sewers to be applicable to commission under this Act.

143. The City Commissioners of Sewers may exercise within the City and Liberties the like powers and authorities for enforcing house drainage as are hereby given to the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers within the limits of their commission.

144. Interpretation clause.

145 enforces the new Act for two years; and 146 provides for its amendment, &c.

The present Act repeals two Acts in the Holborn and Finsbury division, four in Westminster and part of Middlesex, and four in the Kent and Surrey district.

### RESTORATION OF BARFRESTON CHURCH.

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.

At a meeting of this society, on the 8th inst., Mr. Stothard read a descriptive and historical account of Barfreston Church, Kent, concerning which structure notices have appeared in *THE BUILDER* on several occasions. The paper was illustrated by numerous drawings. At the close of it Mr. Stothard requested the Rev. James Gillman, the late rector of Barfreston, to give some account of the manner in which the restoration, effected about six years ago, at a cost of 900*l*., was managed. Mr. Gillman accordingly made the following statement:—

The church of Barfreston, which consists of a nave and chancel, divided by a very beautiful arch, on each side of which are two blank arches, was restored in the following manner:—In the first place, two recesses, which had been cut in each of the very thick side walls of the nave, where they join on to the chancel, were filled up by a facing of brick and cement inside, flint stones being laid in dry behind, and parts of the old work cut out, and then all grouted together, so as to form a complete bond. The south side of the chancel was then underpinned, brick and cement being used inside, flint work outside, all bonded together up to the string course, about four feet high. At the east end there were two blank stone arches, but which had run away from the wall they were intended to support; these were taken down and built up again, together with the wall, and underpinned: a good foundation of concrete was also added here. The north side of the chancel, which was completely dislocated, was taken down and replaced, brick and cement being used for the internal part. Above the string course before alluded to the external walls are ashlar. On the south side of the chancel, the interior face of flint work (very rotten) was cut away; the brick and cement continued upwards, and grouted in to the old ashlar work, which was not removed except to alter two windows of a later insertion. The east end, much cracked, was then taken out, in the form of a V, down to the arches, as the two groins were perfect, and each stone being marked, was restored to its original position. Lastly, the chancel arch was taken down, and restored in the same manner, stone by stone. There has been no crack or settlement since.

Our readers will remember that Barfreston is a Norman church. The length of nave and 1 chancel together, according to Mr. Stothard, is 41 feet 6 inches; the width of nave, 16 feet 10 inches; the width of chancel, 13 feet 9 inches.

At the same meeting, Mr. W. Cave Thomas read a paper "On the Influences which tend to retard the Progress of the Fine Arts," which we shall give in full.